

**Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #14
June 30, 2006**

WORLDWIDE UPDATE:

- WHO has not posted anything since last report.
- Department of Health and Human Services released a Pandemic Planning Update

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- A regional epidemiologist presented information about pandemic influenza planning to groups from the Virginia Association of Non-Profit Homes for the Aging and the Virginia Farm Bureau.
- A PanFlu Advisory Committee meeting was conducted June 28. Attendance was robust.
Agenda:
 - Influenza Summit Report and Federal Grant Update
 - Avian Influenza and Human Health, Situation Update
 - Avian Influenza and Wild Birds, Situation Update (DGIF)
 - Local and Organizational Planning Activities
 - VDH Tabletop and Exercise
 - Group Discussion
 - Communication with Special Needs Populations
 - Healthcare Planning Issues
 - Discussion of Next Steps
- Upcoming Regional and Local PanFlu Summits are scheduled as follows:

Far SW Region	July 20
Near SW Region	August 22
Eastern Shore	August 8
Central Shenandoah	June 30
Middle Peninsula	August 1
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – Regional Reports

- **Southwest Region**
 - SW planners and epidemiologists met via polycom for a final planning meeting prior to the SW pandemic flu tabletop exercise on July 12, 2006.
- **Central Region**
 - Pandemic flu presentation to RLCC members in Fredricksburg. RLCC is a group of 18 agencies that include, local chambers, libraries, social services, corrections, schools.
 - Pandemic flu workshop and state fair preparation in progress. State Fair proposal presented for pan and seasonal flu exhibit.
 - Pandemic flu luncheon and workshop with hospital PR staff.
- **Eastern Region**
 - Coordinated with regional trainer and Eastern Shore emergency preparedness planner to develop agenda for Eastern Shore Pandemic Flu Summit. Summit scheduled for the evening of August 8, 2006
- **Northern Region**
 - Participated in the business session of the Arlington County Pandemic Flu Summit.
 - Invited reporters to attend the Rappahannock-Rapidan Pandemic Flu Summit.
 - Presented a display at the Capital One Emergency Preparedness expo in Tysons Corner. Pandemic flu was the focus of the information.
 - Participated in Loudoun County Pandemic Task Force Planning Team in Leesburg. Will work with their pandemic flu team to plan their Aug. 10 summit, as well as a series of informational seminars aimed at a variety of groups (vets, doctors, schools, etc) and committed to participate in two (of the several) sessions.
 - Assisted reporters at the Rappahannock-Rapidan Pandemic Flu Summit. Participated in the Business breakout session.
 - Attended the Alexandria Pandemic Flu Communications meeting. Will write up their pandemic flu citizen outreach plan, to be part of overall communications plan.
 - Will meet with Northern Virginia Regional Commission on Pandemic flu "one stop shop" to be created and housed there.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Reports

- **Alexandria**
 - A Team for George Washington University is working with the Department in coordinating efforts. The work remains divided across several subject matter groups, GW team is now sharing information across groups to begin integrating the plans.
 - Working group has pulled together a team representing wide segments of the community.
 - Creating brochure for distribution, based in part on work done in Toronto.
 - Creating posters to be distributed throughout the community.
 - Arranging for local television coverage.
 - Developing messages for City hotline.
 - Creating content for website.
 - Developing venues for communication distribution for 3 time periods: Pre event, During event, Post event.
 - Developing messages especially directed toward vulnerable and culturally diverse populations.
 - Currently focusing on work with local courts and judges.

- Plan to exercise the legal process during or preceding the October exercise.
- With the active help of OCME, developing broad plan for fatality management
- Evaluating use of temporary morgue facilities.
- Have involved hospital crisis/behavioral people in plan.
- Will be working with law enforcement to assess potential needs for those services.
- Have laid out all the steps and stages in dealing with fatalities.
- Focusing at this point on non-hospital “fever stations” as a means of alleviating impact on hospital.
- Focusing on providing support people voluntarily or involuntarily in isolation and/or quarantine.
- A number of presentations have been made business, non-profit, and assisted living facilities.
- Health Department is creating a pandemic addendum to its Continuity of Operations plan.
- Other City departments are just now in the process of starting to create similar plan.
- **Chesterfield**
 - First meeting of the Chesterfield Advisory Committee was held.
 - Health Director presented a general briefing on pandemic flu and members discussed public awareness and education methods.
 - Pandemic Flu work group met and discussed current status of projects
 - Pandemic Flu education committee met to review presentations and documentation of presentations.
 - Nurse Manager held orientation for new Pandemic Flu Health Educators.
 - Health Educators gave presentation for Crater Community Hospice.
- **Crater**
 - Nurse Manager Sr. presented a short overview of Pandemic Planning at the Hopewell Shelter Management Team meeting. Each member was given a packet of information and two DVD'S on pandemic flu were given to the chairperson for use among the various agencies.
 - Continue to distribute educational material to the community at all possible venues. Materials are available at all local health departments for immediate requests.
 - Invitations are being distributed and planning is underway for the first meeting of the District's Pandemic Influenza Coordinating Committee. The meeting is scheduled for July 11 at the Larkin Center at Ft. Lee.
- **Cumberland Plateau**
 - Additional summit registrations were distributed on request to school health staff and correctional facilities.
 - SW planners and epidemiologists met via polycom for a final planning meeting prior to the SW pandemic flu tabletop exercise on July 12, 2006.
 - The district pandemic flu gap analysis was finalized.
- **Eastern Shore**
 - Eastern Shore Disaster Preparedness Coalition meeting was held on June 22; addressed pandemic influenza educational efforts and announced that education was available for any groups that would like it.
 - Emergency Planner and CERT members participated in pandemic influenza drill at Shore Memorial Hospital which included an influx of patients. Objectives included rapid detection of disease, proper isolation, proper PPE for HCPs and HEICS setup and operations for administration.

- Emergency Planner and Regional Training Coordinator working on plans and ordering products for August 8th Pandemic Influenza Summit.
- Health Educator started work.
- Brochure created on pandemic influenza for the Eastern Shore community as well as an all-encompassing training program.
- Health Educator has contacted several organizations and agencies and will be doing presentations frequently throughout the summer.
- Health educator presented materials on pandemic influenza and respiratory hygiene at health fair at Tysons Chicken Processing Plant.
- **Hampton**
 - Hampton PanFlu working group met to address PanFlu / COOP planning and preparations.
 - Met with School Security, Safety Committee. Discussed range of potential PanFlu scenarios and response options.
 - Met with Faith Based Shelter Nurses. Discussed how they and churches could assist in the distribution of either antivirals or vaccine and steps churches could take to help preparing for any disaster.
- **Henrico**
 - Planner met with Henrico County School Health Services Supervisor on to draft a Communicable Disease Control Plan that includes pandemic influenza.
 - Planner met with the ER Director of St. Mary's Hospital to discuss local and regional emergency planning efforts.
 - Director and Epidemiologist participated in the Richmond Urban Area Security Initiative (RUASI) regional exercise – an exercise designed to enhance regional communication and joint planning.
 - Planner participated in the Asian American Business Assistance Center (AABAC) event planning meeting. This group is meeting to develop an outreach event in mid to late fall, 2006 to promote preparedness education among the Asian-American population in the Richmond regional area.
 - Planner completed and submitted documents required for renewal of CDC Emergency Preparedness & Response (EP&R) and Pandemic Influenza grants.
 - Henrico Health District completed and distributed our monthly "Public Health Bytes" newsletter to local healthcare providers, through email and our "blastfax" system. This allows the Health District to test the blastfax communications system as well as provide updates on pandemic flu and other relevant public health topics to local hospitals, outpatient treatment centers, physician offices, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, pharmacies, and home health agencies.
- **Lenowisco**
 - Director was on a one hour talk show, "Doctor in the House" and talked about Public Health and Emergency Planning (to include planning for a PanFlu).
 - Director and Epidemiologist met with key staff at the University of Virginia at Wise to discuss PanFlu Planning for Colleges and Universities, and provided them information to assist in their planning efforts.
 - Epidemiologist was a presenter at the Scott County Local Emergency Planning Committee and did a presentation on Avian Flu and community preparedness should a Pandemic occur.
 - Epidemiologist continues to promote the PanFlu Summit scheduled for July 20, 2006 and has been sending out invitations.

- Epidemiologist attended a polycom conference to discuss the Pandemic Flu Tabletop Exercise that will take place on 7/12/06.
- Epidemiologist spoke with the Scott County Administrator to discuss meeting with County Government officials to initiate Pandemic Flu planning for the County.
- **Lord Fairfax (Winchester Area)**
 - Planner is undergoing Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation System training.
 - Director participated in the State Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee meeting.
 - Preparations are underway with registration open for the District's Avian Influenza Conference to be held Friday, July 28 in Warren County.
- **Piedmont**
 - Pandemic Influenza presentation to the Amelia County LEPC.
 - Meeting with the regional school superintendents for a presentation on preparing for the possibility of a pandemic.
 - Farmville LEPC meeting with presentations by Longwood University and the Health Department regarding preparations for a possible pandemic of influenza.
- **Penninsula**
 - District staff conducted a Pandemic influenza Tabletop Exercise (TTX) for the southern end of the district. Provided a brief overview of pandemic influenza and then engaged participants in a time-scaled TTX scoped to the locality. Participants included representatives from Fire/EMS/Emergency Management and Public Schools for Newport News, Poquoson, and York County, senior representatives from a major health system and a large local group practice, medical directors of two major local employers, and public and nonprofit sector providers of social and other support services.
 - Director met with the Deputy Commander for Clinical Services for McDonald Army Health Center (Fort Eustis) to discuss local military-public health coordination and collaboration with respect to pandemic influenza planning and response and other communicable disease control measures.
 - Planner presented and answered questions on pandemic influenza planning for approximately 12 employees of Newport News city government.
 - Director presented and answered questions on pandemic influenza planning and preparedness, especially focused on community surge and continuity of operations, for 20 members of the Hampton Roads Medical Group Managers, a professional group of operations managers for multi-physician practices across Hampton Roads.
 - Director joined the Newport News Emergency Management staff in a meeting with representatives from U.S. Joint Forces Command to discuss pandemic influenza planning.
- **Prince William**
 - Various neighborhood sites will be playing the pandemic video in community centers with CERT member from the community available.
 - Working of getting MRC trained on NIMS and ICS.
 - Delivering MOUs to community organizations which take care of special needs populations to assist in risk communication and in some cases medication distribution to their clients.
 - Addressing mass fatality issues with State and Local ME representatives.
 - Discussing with local legal community using new video equipment and testing it during the October State Exercise.
 - Risk management in county working on COOP and ordering supplies in case of surge (i.e. masks)

- Annual fit testing for our health department staff.
- **Richmond City**
 - The district Pandemic Influenza plan was completed and distributed to district's management and supervisory staff for review. Will be distributed to Pan Flu Planning Committee at next meeting.
 - Planner continues updating the RCHD All Hazards Emergency Operations Plan to prepare for a comprehensive response should any event occur.
 - Planner spoke at graduation of the new Richmond CERT team. Presentation focused on possible roles of CERT in a response. Spoke of MRC and the potential for the two teams to work together in an event.
 - Development of Exercise Planning Team in progress.
 - In process of developing training for District staff with a pandemic influenza awareness session and POD Training session.
 - Planner working to set date to present the Terrorism Security Awareness Orientation for all staff.
 - Working to reschedule ICS 100 & 200 courses for staff.
 - Working on updated District Dispensing Plan.
 - Working on Communications Plan.
 - Held our last recruitment town meeting for the MRC. Had 95 people attend orientations and have 68 completed applications. Of these 54 hold some manner of professional license. Future recruitment meetings have been scheduled with the Seventh Day Adventist Church and CERT trained volunteers.
 - Meeting was held with the Board of Directors of REACH to discuss pandemic planning and impact on their services. REACH is a coalition of safety net providers to ensure health care delivery to uninsured/underinsured.
 - Gap analysis reported was completed.
- **Roanoke City / Allegheny County**
 - Did a PanFlu presentation for the US Postal Service in Roanoke; they are now forming a PanFlu preparedness team.
 - Did a PanFlu presentation for businesses in the Roanoke Valley through the LEPC; encouraged businesses to cross-train personnel and stressed importance of individual preparedness as well as cross-business collaboration.
 - Did a presentation for Roanoke County School Board. Attending were County government officials, County EMS chiefs, County Fire Chiefs, school administration, County law enforcement, and Virginia State Police Senior Troopers. Teams are now being formed to address PanFlu preparedness across and within the various disciplines.
 - In process of conducting second interviews for health educator to assist with PanFlu education and preparedness.
- **Thomas Jefferson (Charlottesville)**
 - Epidemiologist joined pan flu planning group at UVa. Will represent public health on two subcommittees.
 - New health director attended Albemarle County PanFlu planning meeting to begin planning for continuity of operations for county government.
 - City of Charlottesville held first meeting to develop PanFlu planning for continuity of operations for city government.
 - Director and new director attended meeting with a group of physicians affiliated with Martha Jefferson Hospital to discuss PanFlu planning. From this meeting new

director will be working with local physicians group to develop altered standards of care for locality.

- Temporary PanFlu planning coordinator / pan flu health educator hired to support district pandemic influenza preparedness
- Epidemiologist provided on-camera interview with local TV station: Provided information on district's plans for supplemental Pan Flu funding. Highlighted our recent efforts and successes, as well as our current focus on ramping-up efforts Pan Flu preparedness and response by hiring additional staff. Emphasized the need for individuals to become aware of personal responsibility in planning for disasters (all-hazards approach)